LVI.

THE Lord Lambert's LETTER

To the Right Honorable

The *Speaker* of the PARLIAMENT,

Concerning the Victory which it hath pleased God to give the Forces of this Commonwealth over the Rebels under

Sir *George Booth* in *Cheshire.*

Read in Parliament, Monday Aug. 22.

To which is added

A LIST of the Officers which are Prisoners, with the number of Soldiers and Colours taken; according to the Relation made by Captain *Brown*, who was present in the Fight.

London, Printed by *Tho. Newcomb* over against *Bainards* Castle in *Thames-street*, 1659.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

THE Lord *LAMBERT'S* LETTER

To the Right Honorable the

Speaker of the *Parliament.*

SIR,

I Have given the Council of State an account of our ſeveral Proceedings, ſince the time that by their Commands we left *London*; and having had nothing which I thought worthy your knowledge, I have refrained hitherto from giving you that trouble; but now think it my duty to acquaint you how the good Hand of Providence hath lately appeared in an Engagement betwixt your Forces and the Enemy.

Upon the Lords day laſt, the two Regiments of Foot which marched from *London*, with the Horſe under the Command of Col. *Swallow*, and Major *Creed* (being in all Nineteen Troops) united at *Drayton* in the County of *Salop*. But by reaſon of the

weak condition of the Garison of *Stafford* (the safety whereof I judged very considerable) I sent back the *Militia* Troop under the command of Capt. *Backhouse* thither: Also, to the assistance of your Friends in *Derbishire* the *Militia* Troop of that County, and Capt. *Sabbertons*; and with the rest I marched to *Namptwich* in *Cheshire* on Monday last, where we staid two days, till four Companies of Col. *Biscoes* Regiment, and one Troop of my Regiment came up to us, and three Troops more of Col. *Lilburns*, and two Companies of Col. *Ashfields*, were advanced as far as *Uttoxeter*.

Upon Thursday morning, although it proved very unseasonable for Rain, yet judging your service required expedition, and finding a great resolution in the Soldiery to encounter all difficulties, according to former resolution upon full debate with the Superior Officers, resting upon the Providence of God we advanced towards *Chester*; and being marched about five miles, we had certain intelligence, that the enemy, with about four or five thousand horse and foot, were marched towards *Northwich*; which caused us to alter our resolutions, and to march directly toward the Forest of *De la More*, over which they were to pass; and being arived thither, we had notice that they were about three miles before us.

Your Forces marched with that cheerfulness, that had we had day enough, we should in all probability have ingaged them before they had reached *Northwich*, but doe what we could, we only gained a view of their Reer-guard in the duske of the Evening, and took three or four prisoners. That night they quartered at *Northwich*, and we at a small Village called *Weeverham*; from whence the next morning we advanced very early towards them, and before we had march't a mile we discover'd them both Horse and Foot, half a mile on this side *Northwich*, drawing amongst the Inclosures, where it was impossible for Horse to doe service, and not without difficulty for the Foot to break through. We presently engaged them, and after a short dispute they quitted their grounds, and retreated from hedge to hedge, yet in that order as they suffered very little damage, it being impossible for our horse to fall in amongst them, and at length came to *Winington*.

ton-bridge, behind which they retreated, without any other loss than that of Reputation, and discouragement in meeting with those whom they found of equal courage, but engaged in a better Cause. Their next endevour was to secure that Bridge, which they had good reason to hope for, considering the Advantages they had both in regard the River was unfordable, the Bridge narrow, flanker'd with a strong ditch on the Farr end, and a high Hill, up which no Horse could pass otherwise than along the side in a narrow path. But the Forces having their former courage encreased by seeing the presence of God with them, fell on as if they had been upon equall Terms; and after a short dispute, the Enemy having spent two or three good volleys, our men still advancing upon them, they quit their station, and gave way for both horse and foot to march over. Our horse, which hitherto had been useless to us, advanced over the Bridge, together with some Foot. The horse made towards a party of theirs, which I judged was of their choicest, and came to secure the Retreat of their Foot; and the Foot scrambling up the Hill after their Retreating Colours, our Horse charged, but by reason of the narrowness of the way, in small parties. To speak truth, that of the Horse was performed on both sides like Englishmen; but ours got the better, and the Enemy turned their backs. We had the pursuit of them above a quarter of a mile, where they again made Head, but were routed, and thereupon their Horse and Foot fled on all hands, and our work was only to give them Chase. Most of their Foot got into Inclosures, and escaped, our wearied Foot not able to overtake them, nor possible for the Horse to get to them. Their Horse divided, some towards *Chester*, and some towards *Warrington*; we had the pursuit as far as *Frodsham* and *Warrington* where they could proceed no further, the latter being garrisond with four Companies of Foot and a Troop of Horse.

The Enemy had left this while in *Northwich* two Companies of Foot and two Troops of Horse; which when I understood, I sent the Adjutant-General, with Capt. *Evanson's* Troop, and a Troop of Dragoons, who advancing up to the bridge and firing upon them, the Enemy drew off in good order, but not being able

to

to make their retreat, was routed and pursued within two or three miles of *Manchester*. And though I cannot say your Victory was great in respect of prisoners or men slain, yet I judge it a total Rout, or which by the providence of God may be improved to so much. I cannot hear that we have above one man slain outright, and not above three dangerously wounded: Of the Enemy not above thirty slain; of prisoners I have no full account as yet, but I suppose about three hundred, whereof most Horsmen, and some Field-Officers of quality: I shall upon better information give you an account thereof. The Enemy reported themselves to be above Four thousand, but to our view there never appeared above Two. The service done by the Foot, was chiefly perform'd by Col. *Hewson's* Regiment. The same day we march'd with the Foot back to *Northwich*, where upon consideration of your affairs, we have determined to divide your Forces; Col. *Ashfield* with his four Companies, Lieut. Col. *Duckenfield* (who shewed himself a worthy Servant this day to you and his country) with part of Col *Hewson's* Regiment, and a convenient number of Horse, to march for *Lancashire*, where, if there be any Root left for renewing this Rebellion, I judge it lies. I have likewise writ to Col. *Lilburn* who is with some Horse and Foot about *Wakefield*, to unite with them if they see cause. The other part of your Forces I intend to march towards *Chester*, having received this day a Message from Col. *Croxton*, Governor of the Castle, by one of his Soldiers who swam the river and came to me, That he cannot for want of Victuals hold out longer. I have likewise ordered Col *Jerom Zankey* with the Irish Forces, who by common fame I hear is landed at *Beaumarris*, to advance with all speed towards *Shrewsbury*, and to expect further Orders there in prosecution of the reducement of *Chester*, (which if your occasions may not require them elsewhere, I desire you will please to confirm.) The Enemie left there four Companies of Foot, a Troop of Horse, besides what escap'd thither from the Fight neer *Northwich*, and what that disaffected City will afford in Townsmen.

I shall here take the boldness to represent to you the great necessitie of the Soldiers by want of Pay, we being to issue that small portion we had after the rate of six pence a day, and already

well

well nigh ſpent, ſo as Shoos, Stockings, and other Neceſſaries in their long and dirty marches cannot be provided for. Your former care in this aſſures me I need ſay no more, and therefore ſhall break off this diſcourſe, wherein (may be) I have mentioned many particulars not worthy your notice, and ſhall beg of God that he will direct your Counſels to ſuch things, as may be for his glory, and ſuitable to theſe great mercies beſtowed upon you; Aſſuring you, that what may further concern your ſervice in theſe parts, ſhall be diligently performed by

(SIR)

Northwich, Aug. 20. 1659.

Your moſt faithful and humble Servant,

J. Lambert.

Weſt-

Whitehall, Monday, August 22.

The foregoing Letter was brought by Capt. *Brown* of Col. *Hewsons* Regiment, who was in the Engagement, came from thence on Saturday-noon, and arived yesternight about Midnight, and relateth; That Sir *George Booth* flying with some horse toward *Chester*, was pursued by Major *Creed* within two miles of the City. Another party of them running towards *Manchester*, were pursued by Col. *Swallow*; and Col. *Ireland*, with about an Hundred Horse, ran towards *Leverpoole*. He saith, their Horse at first were a gallant Body, betwixt 17 and 1800. The Officers which were taken prisoners before he came away, he names as followeth, *viz.*

Col. *Massey* of *Cheshire*.
Major *Harrison*, lately a Capt. of Col. *Gibbons* Regiment.
Capt. *Philip Egerton*.
Major *James Scotfield*.
Capt. *Martland*.
Capt. *Smith*.
Cornet *Grosvener*, son of Sir *Richard Grosvener*.
Capt. *Cosel*.
Lieut. *Davies*.
Ensign *Ward*.
Ensign *Langshaw*.
Lieut. *Seare*.
Cornet *Gill*.
John Bromley of *Wolverhampton*, Gent.
Capt. *Stutly*.
Capt. *Davies*.

That the number of private Soldiers taken were 236. about 30 Colours, and good store of Horse.

Their word, he saith, was *Have at all*. Ours, *God with us*.

This was the Account of things, as they stood at the time of his coming away; Our Forces being then upon pursuit of the Enemy several waies.

FINIS.